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Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /023 W
---------- 022450
R 031449Z MAY 74
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4301
INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 3945

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI, IAEA, GT
SUBJECT: US EQUIPMENT GRANTS TO IAEA FOR 1973 -
GUA/9/02

REF: STATE 88381

1. AGENCY EQUIPMENT SECTION ADVISES THAT EXCHANGE OF HIGH ENERGY CHAMBER FOR MEDIUM ENERGY CHAMBER DISCUSSED REFTEL WAS BASED ON REQUEST MADE BY AGENCY EXPERT IN GUATEMALA FOR SUBJECT PROJECT (TAIT, CANADIAN) TO GUATEMALA AUTHORITIES. AS IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN AGENCY TA PROJECTS, EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS WERE INITIALLY PREPARED BASED ON REQUEST FROM RECIPIENT COUNTRY AUTHORITIES. AFTER ARRIVING ON SCENE, TAIT DETERMINED THAT SPECIFIC ITEMS INITIALLY REQUESTED DID NOT RPT NOT CONFORM TO ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT, AND SUGGESTED THIS EXCHANGE TO REMEDY SITUATION.

2. EQUIPMENT SECTION STATES THAT TAIT DID NOT RPT NOT REQUEST ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS ACTION FROM VIENNA, BUT STATED FURTHER THAT IF HE HAD, THEY SAW NO REASON WHY REQUEST WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GRANTED, SINCE NATURE OF ACTION APPEARS TECHNICALLY SOUND AND EXPERT ON SCENE IS PRESUMABLY IN BEST POSITION TO KNOW ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS. FURTHER, TAIT HAS PARTICIPATED AS EXPERT IN SIMILAR AGENCY PROJECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES ON NUMBEROUS PAST OCCASIONS, AND AGENCY HAS REASON TO
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RESPECT HIS RECORD AND TRUST HIS JUDGEMENT IN TECHNICAL

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MATTERS OF THIS TYPE.

3. EQUIPMENT SECTION STATED THAT WHILE SUCH LOCALLY-INITIATED ACTIONS BY TA EXPERTS WERE NOT COMMON, SIMILAR SITUATIONS HAD OCCURRED IN PAST PROJECTS REGARDING PARTICULAR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT; THEY COULD RECALL NO SPECIFIC CASE INVOLVING US GRANT, HOWEVER. IN SUCH CASES, AGENCY HAS TENDED TO FEEL THAT ITS EXPERT ON SPOT IS BEST ABLE TO JUDGE ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OPTIMUM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, AND WHERE EXPERT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO INITIATE DIRECT ACTION OF THIS SORT (WHERE POSSIBLE) TO REMEDY INADQUACIES IN INITIAL REQUEST, AGENCY HAS FELT IT BEST NOT TO SECOND-GUESS EXPERT FROM HEADQUARTERS. IN MOST SUCH CASES, EXPERTS HAVE TRIED TO HANDLE MATTER DIRECTLY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, AND IN MOST SUCH CASES, EQUIPMENT SECTION INFORMALLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY BEST FOR OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF PROJECT.

4. IF FOREGOING PRESENTS PROBLEMS, WE WILL DISCUSS FURTHER WITH AGENCY, BUT MISSION FEELING IS THAT IN THIS CASE, AGENCY EXPERT WAS PROBABLY DOING CORRECT THING IN VIEW OF ACTUAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT.LABOWITZ

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